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COUNTRY East Germany SECURITY INFORMATION REPORT

TOPIC Koethen Airfield

EVALUATION

DATE OF CONT

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 28 July 1953 50X1-HUM

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. After 20 May 1953, air activity, which sometimes was intensive, was observed at Koethen airfield. On 21 May, parachute jumps were made.

3. in Koethen, the following motor vehicle columns en route to the airfield between 20 May and 10 June:
- 20 May. A column of 23 trucks, each occupied by 12 soldiers with black-bordered blue epaulets, and 2 field kitchens from the direction of Dessau. 50X1-HUM
- 22 May. A column of 6 sedans, and occupied by high-ranking officers, from the direction of Dessau. A column of 12 trucks, each carrying 12 to 15 EM and 50X1-HUM
- 25 May. A column of 18 trucks with EM and officers and a column of 6 trucks, carrying EM and officers with blue epaulets, from the direction of Dessau.
- 27 May. A column of 22 trucks carrying EM and officers with black epaulets from the direction of Aken.
- 29 May. A column of 11 trucks, each occupied by 10 soldiers with black epaulets, from the direction of Halle and a column of 8 trucks, each carrying 10 soldiers with black epaulets from the direction of Aken. 50X1-HUM
- 30 May. A column of 12 trucks each occupied by one soldier and a column of 14 trucks each occupied by about 10 soldiers; and 1 field kitchen, from the direction of Aken.
- 31 May. A column of 8 trucks, each occupied by 10 soldiers with black epaulets; and 1 field kitchen, from the direction of Aken. 50X1-HUM
- 2 June. A column of 12 trucks each occupied by 10 soldiers with black epaulets; and 1 field kitchen.
- 4 June. A column of 9 trucks, each occupied by 10 soldiers with black epaulets; and 1 field kitchen, from the direction of Dessau.
- 7 June. A column of 9 trucks each occupied by 10 soldiers with blue epaulets; and 1 field kitchen, from the direction of Aken or Dessau. 50X1-HUM

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On 10 June, a column of 8 trucks, each carrying 10 soldiers with red epaulets; 1 field kitchen and two-axle AA guns, proceeded from the airfield in the direction of Koethen. Also a column of 32 trucks, each occupied by 10 soldiers with blue epaulets, and 2 field kitchens, passed through Koethen from the direction of Bernburg in the direction of Dessau.²

4. Between 3 and 10 June, the following air activity and aircraft were observed at the field:

3 June. In the late afternoon, no air activity was observed. There was a closed ceiling. About 5:30 p.m., 12 MiG-15s were parked in front of the hangars.

4 June. In the afternoon, individual MiG-15s made local flights at an altitude of 400 to 500 meters. Between 10 p.m. and midnight, swept-back jet fighters conducted night flying with set position lights. The planes remained aloft for about 20 to 25 minutes. About 8:30 p.m., 12 MiG-15s were parked in front of the hangars.

5 June. In the morning, formations of four planes practiced flying. The planes landed individually after flying for about 25 minutes. There was a 4/10 overcast and good visibility.

6 June. About noon, elements of two planes practiced flying. There was a 2/10 overcast and good visibility.

10 June. Between 10:50 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., flying by elements of two planes was observed.

5. In early June, trucks [redacted] were 50X1-HUM
observed on the roads leading to the airfield. 50X1-HUM

6. On 15 June, formation flying by four MiG-15s was observed. About 9 a.m., a single-engine monoplane was flying over the closed ceiling. About 6 p.m., swept-back jet fighters practiced flying. Trucks loaded with sand and crushed stones were observed at the field. Thirteen shrapnel-proof aircraft revetments were completed at the southern edge of the field.

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1. Comment. Koethen airfield is believed to be occupied by two fighter regiments. One of them is assigned to the fighter division in Merseburg-Altenburg, while the other one is possibly directly subordinate to the Twenty-fourth Air Army. The present report does not indicate a change in this occupation.

2. Comment. [redacted] it is believed that the shipments observed carried personnel of the ground units of the regiments in Koethen which were returning from exercises on training grounds. [redacted]

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